

## How we use details about Children



There are lots of reasons why police need to use details about children. This page tells you why we might need these details and what we do with them.

We provide this page online because we are not always able to give detail directly to children. This is because we are usually helping with an emergency.

Did you know we also have another page which tells you all about how we use details if you are a [police volunteer cadet](#).

### Why we need children's details

We need children's details when police are given **tasks** in law which say we should:

- do something to make children safe
- help to find children when they are missing
- send details to other people such as the council or solicitors
- make the things we do as a police force better. We do this by studying details we hold.

We may need to note a child's details if they need to be rescued from serious harm or **risk of death**.

We need children's details when **law says police must**:

- keep children safe, help them or support them to stop breaking the law
- disclose details when told to by a judge or when it is written in law
- review how we acted when someone called police for help
- review how we record details, keep them safe and delete them
- let children use their rights (see page 2).

We also note details about children when we **deal with crime**. For example:

- we must record what has happened when police have been called to help someone. This could be to help a child or when a child is present
- if police need to take action against someone who has harmed a child (or could harm a child)
- if a child does something which breaks the law and police need to stop that child from doing it again.

We may post some details on the internet, such as a picture, when we believe it is a **way of showing the good work that we do**. We ask for permission from the person responsible for the child before we do this.

## Details about children we might use

- name
- where they live and how we can speak to them
- date and place they were born
- documents which prove a child's identity
- pictures and videos
- crime details when the law has been broken
- health
- race or ethnic origin
- sex life / sexual orientation.

We only use details about health, race and ethnic origin, sex life and sexual orientation when we really need to. For example:

- when needed to keep children safe (who may be at risk of harm)
- when law tells us we must do something which needs this detail
- when law says that people should receive equal rights
- when we need it to help a police investigation. If we ask a doctor or hospital to provide police with health details, we will ask the person responsible for the child to provide consent.

## Who gives us details and who we might pass details to

- other police forces or emergency services such as hospitals and fire services
- councils, social services, youth justice, prison service and other teams supporting young people
- the Princes Trust and local football clubs
- places of education such as schools and colleges
- government and complaints bodies
- solicitors and the courts
- social media and possibly newspapers
- people who have responsibility to look after a child or the child themselves

## How long we keep data

The reasons why we need details will control length of time that these details are kept for. Police use guidance documents to help us to decide long we should keep details for. This is so that we only keep details for as long as we need them. These documents can be found on our [website](#).

## Children's rights

Law allows children to ask the police to do some things with the detail it keeps about them. As long as they 13 years of age (or older) and able to understand their rights, children can directly ask for the following:

- [ask for a copy](#) of their details. This is called 'subject access'
- ask us to [stop using or sharing](#) their details (does not apply to crime matters)
- ask us to [delete or change](#) details if we have done something wrong
- complain to our [Data Protection Officer](#) or the [Information Commissioner](#).